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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 8, lines 10-14 of the specification, with the following amended paragraph:

In one embodiment of the invention, the novel bacterium is a baroduric (pressure tolerant) one i.e. it is capable of growing both at 500 atm and at 1 atm pressure and the petroleum ether fraction of the bacterium when scanned in an UV visible spectrometer shows characteristic peaks at 448nm with shoulders at 430 and 470 nm, which is similar to the ~~earatenoid~~ carotenoid compound.